

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research: (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): I beg to move the.....

Some Hon. Members: On behalf of..

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is how it goes on record.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: On behalf of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, I beg to move the following:

"That in pursuance of Resolution No. F. 8-26/57-C. 1, dated the 9th October, 1957 of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the Central Advisory Board of Anthropology."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put this motion to the House. The question is:

"That in pursuance of Resolution No F 8-26/57-C 1, dated the 9th October, 1957 of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the Central Advisory Board of Anthropology."

The motion was adopted

COAL BEARING AREAS (ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Mines and Oil: (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Sardar Swaran Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I beg to* introduce the Bill.

CANTONMENTS (EXTENSION OF RENT CONTROL LAWS) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up the Cantonments (Extension of Rent Control Laws) Bill, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha for which one hour has been allotted.

I have to inform the House that the President, having been informed about the subject matter of the Cantonments (Extension of Rent Control Laws) Bill, 1957, has, under article 117(3) of the Constitution, recommended to Lok Sabha the consideration of the Bill.

The Deputy Minister of Defence: (Sardar Majlithia): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension to cantonments of laws relating to the control of rent and regulation of house accommodation, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill has become necessary because under article 246 of the Constitution and Entry No. 3 of the Union List, power to extend the Rent Control Laws in cantonment areas now belongs exclusively to Parliament. This power formerly rested with the State Governments. It is, therefore, necessary that we pass this legislation which intends nothing else, but to simply apply to the cantonments in the various States the same law as

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†Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Sardar Majithia]

applies to rent control in that particular State. This has further been necessitated by the difficulty that has arisen in Mhow cantonment where certain landlords have tried to evict the tenants. Previously, the Madhya Bharat Accommodation and Rent Control Act, 1955 was governing rent controls there. As I have mentioned to begin with, now the State Act does not apply to the cantonment areas. It has become necessary to introduce and pass this small piece of legislation. This is entirely non-controversial as you will see. Therefore, I commend that this be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension to cantonments of laws relating to the control of rent and regulation of house accommodation, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: (Mukandapuram): When we looked originally into the amendment that had been introduced, I was thinking that it was something which has already been said in the past for which the Government had made some commitments regarding the Cantonments Act of 1924, mentioned in the House today. I was just watching the debate in the Upper House. The hon. Minister seems to have taken objection to general references being made regarding the Cantonment Act of 1924. His contention, obviously, was that this was a small piece of legislation in which some Rent Control laws are sought to be extended to the areas which, previously, the British people, under the Cantonments Act, chose to define as cantonments.

I must submit before this House that whenever the Government comes with a small piece of legislation in

which a clause or sub-clause is to be amended, it is not possible to confine the remarks to that amending clause alone. That will be the best occasion for the House to make certain comments or recommendations regarding the Act generally. That is the only occasion when the view of this House at random regarding the past statutes could be brought to the notice of the Government and the Government could take suitable measures.

This particular amendment which the hon. Minister commended to this House for consideration was necessitated because there were certain defects in fixing up rents for houses in the cantonment areas and also to give protection to the tenants in the cantonment areas. Government has come forward with a Bill that the Cantonment Act be amended because they had some difficulty in one cantonment called Mhow. I submit, this is a classical example of the regimented and piecemeal thinking that Government does so far as legislation in general is concerned.

The original Act, the Cantonments Act was enacted in 1924. The whole object of that Act was, and the object of creating cantonments as symbols of British despotism all over the country was, whenever an army of occupation is in a foreign country, certainly that army of occupation had to be protected in regimented areas away from the civilian population. In 1924, there was a necessity for cantonments being established throughout the country. When the British Army of occupation was in India, that army had to be given certain privileges and also certain protection. In that year, the Cantonments Act was passed.

In 1947, the British Army left India and the necessity for this Cantonments Act disappeared. After ten years, in spite of certain assurances that the hon. Minister had given in the Rajya Sabha as early as 1952,—now six years have passed—the Government has not considered it possible

to bring a comprehensive legislation either totally repealing the Cantonments Act or by bringing suitable modifications in that. Whatever might be the main defects of the Cantonments Act of 1924, now the Government has come across a certain defect that the Rent Control Act should be made applicable because large-scale evictions are there in the Mhow Cantonment. Previously, this was within the purview of the jurisdiction of the State Legislature. Then, the State Rent Control Act was made applicable to the cantonments. Is it required that the Government should wait for some sort of trouble to arise or some sort of difficulty to arise in any cantonment or in a certain part of the country to come with a piece of legislation which only amends a small part of it? Is not the Government aware or has it not been brought to the notice of the Government that there are so many loopholes in the Cantonments Act and many people, who are now living in the cantonments and who because of their occupation, are linked up with the army, are subjected to certain discrimination because of the existence of the Cantonments Act? In the cantonments that are now existing as the old remnants or symbols of the despotism of the British army of occupation in this country, the privileges and rights that are conferred upon the workmen in other municipal areas are denied. In the municipal area many beneficial labour legislations are existing. Just near by, about a furlong off, in the cantonment, similar workmen are denied the benefits of the labour laws.

I am not pointing out every detail, every defect in the Act because there is the Municipalities Act in every State and it is far easier to repeal the Cantonments Act altogether and bring these cantonment areas which are contiguous areas under the Corporation or Municipality, and bring them under the jurisdiction of that local authority. There is absolutely no use and no useful purpose will be served by this Act. The hon. Minister will not be able to point out one

word in justification for the retaining of these cantonment areas directly controlled by the Central Government. While the local authority, either the municipality or the Corporation controls the contiguous area, there should not be a parallel or diverse type of administration. For example, the Madras Corporation is there. It is an autonomous body. Near by, in St. Thomas Mount you have a cantonment. It would have been understandable, if British Badasahebs had been living in St. Thomas Mount, separate barber shops will have to be kept for the badasahebs. That is exactly why, for making these provisions, the cantonments have been there. You find the anomalous position of the Madras Corporation having autonomous authority in one place and ruling over the City of Madras quite well, and you find a cantonment board for a specified area in the City of Madras itself so to say. Thus there is a duplication of organisations, the Central Government exercising control over one which brings many difficulties.

For example, in the City of Madras and also in the municipal area of Cannanore in Kerala the Shops and Establishments Act is in force. In the City of Madras or in the town of Cannanore if a worker is dismissed from any job, he has got a remedy under the Shops and Establishments Act, but if an employee is dismissed in a similar Shop in the adjacent area under the jurisdiction of the Cantonment, he has no remedy because the Shops and Establishments Act is not applicable there. This has been brought to the notice of the Government. This is an unnecessary discrimination which Government will not be able to justify. They cannot justify the duplication of organisations, why there should be State control in places dotted all over the country when the primary necessity of this legislation has vanished. It takes the time of the House, of the Upper House; valuable moments have been lost and a lot of money has been lost by means of this

[Shri Narayanankutty Menon]

piecemeal legislation because of this piecemeal thinking and the Government refusing to have a comprehensive or overall picture when bringing forward legislation regarding a particular matter.

While I support this Bill I wish to mention that whenever Government decides to bring before this House a Bill to amend a clause or a sub-clause, they should take into consideration the over-all aspect of the Bill, and the defects pointed out will have to be removed, and the Bills that have already become antiquated and outdated should be repealed, so that precious money which flows out of the Exchequer may not be wasted, and the time of the House might be saved. When the Government decides to amend a Bill, let them decide whether the Bill deserves to be repealed so that they may not come before the House with the same piece of legislation for further amendments later on.

The hon. Minister, it has been pointed, made a promise in 1952 that in the light of our experience the Bill would be amended or repealed. From 1947 onwards when the original purpose of the Bill had gone for ten years in spite of complaints from the people of these cantonment boards, the Government has not been able to find the reasons for the same. How many more years will be required for the Government to understand the difficulties of the cantonment boards?

Ten years is a very long period in the history of a nation. Ten years is a very long period for a Government to understand the simple question of the necessity of repealing this Act. Therefore, without waiting for another ten years to understand and digest the necessity for repealing this legislation, let the Government come forward with a Bill to repeal this legislation, because comprehensive legislation is not at all required in this respect. We have got similar and comprehensive legislation in all the States. If that is made applicable to all these canton-

ment boards, the boards would be quite satisfied, because that will serve the purpose. Therefore, let the Cantonment Act of 1924 be repealed.

As far as the present amendment is concerned, I welcome it because this provision has been long overdue. In all the municipalities the rent control Act has been passed. In the cantonment areas which are as good as municipalities all our Class IV or Class III employees directly under the Defence Ministry or connected with the Defence Ministry who get a pittance of house rent allowance—in most cases they are not given—and therefore the rent should be fixed so that the accommodation problem could be solved.

While welcoming this Bill I again urge upon the hon. Deputy Defence Minister to repeal the Act so that this blur on the statute, this remnant of the past army of occupation shall be taken out of our statute-book, and all these cantonment boards may be absorbed in the municipalities or corporations adjacent to them.

श्री अ० सि० स० गल (जजगीर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो कंटोन्मेन्ट्स (एक्स्टेंशन आफ रेंट कंट्रोल लाज) बिल रक्खा है, मैं उसका स्वागत करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि जा कंटोन्मेन्ट्स ऐक्ट है वह सन् १९२४ के ऐक्ट का आधार पर बना हुआ है। लेकिन जमाने के अनुसार आज हम सन् १९५७ में चल रहे हैं। इतने वर्षों के बाद क्या हमारे लिये यह जरूरी नहीं है कि हम एक कॉम्प्रे-हेन्सिव बिल इस काम के लिये पेश करें। आप मध्य भारत ऐंकोमोडेशन कंट्रोल ऐक्ट १९५५ को बदलना चाहते हैं और बदल कर चाहते हैं कि उसको माऊ पर लागू करें। आप इस बिल के अनुसार मध्य भारत ऐंकोमोडेशन कंट्रोल ऐक्ट से कुछ शहरों को निकाल रहे हैं। आप

क्षेत्रों के पृष्ठ ३ पर सेक्शन ६ का जो क्लॉज १ है उस में से लक्कर के साथ ही ग्वालियर, जोरार, इन्दौर, उज्जैन आदि सब सहरों को निकाल देना चाहते हैं। आप इन छोटी छोटी चीजों के लिये तरमीमें लाया करते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि, स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद दस वर्ष हो जाने के बाद भी इस तरह के तरमीमी बिल लाना ठीक नहीं है। मैं प्रार्थना करूँगा कि आप एक कांफ्रिहेन्सिव बिल लाइये और इस सदन के सामने रखिये। सदन में इस तरह की भावाज कई दफा उठ चुकी है कि हम कोई लेजिस्लेशन लायें, लेकिन वह लेजिस्लेशन इस तरह का होना चाहिये जिसे हम अच्छी तरह से लागू कर सकें।

मैं मानता हूँ कि कैंटोन्मेंट एरियाज में जो आपके मकानात हैं उनको कंट्रोल करना आप के लिये जरूरी है, लेकिन इसके साथ ही क्या यह जरूरी नहीं है कि यह अधिकार वहाँ के चुने हुये कैंटोन्मेंट बोर्डों के प्रतिनिधियों को दिये जायें और वह जनता द्वारा चुने जायें।

इसी के साथ ही आपको वह भी करना चाहिये कि जितने कैंटोन्मेंट बोर्ड हों उन के जो मेम्बर होते हैं वे उसी तरह से चुने जायें जिस प्रकार से कि म्यूनिसिपल बोर्ड्स के मेम्बर चुने जाते हैं। आप जबलपुर में कैंटोन्मेंट बोर्ड के चुनाव करने जा रहे हैं। मैं नहीं जानता कि वहाँ के एलाक्टोरल-रोल्स के बनाने का क्या तरीका है। वहाँ पर जिनके मकानात हैं अगर उनके हिसाब से यह रोल्स बनाये जायें तो बहुत अच्छा है।

बहरहाल सारी चीजों को देखते हुये मैं महसूस करता हूँ कि जो आप पीसमील लेजिस्लेशन ला रहे हैं, उसकी जगह कांफ्रिहेन्सिव बिल लाना चाहिये था। इससे हमारे देश में जितने कैंटोन्मेंट बोर्ड्स हैं उन सबका सला होगा। इन सबको के

साथ जो बिल आया है, मैं उस का समर्थन करता हूँ।

16 hrs.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, both the Hon. member who preceded me have made a plea for the introduction of a comprehensive Bill on this subject. One of the Members said that this Bill was a specimen of the piecemeal way of thinking on the part of the Government.

I believe, Sir, that a comprehensive piece of legislation is needed so far as this matter concerned. But I do not believe that this Bill is an instance of piecemeal thinking. A problem has now come into being and we have to tackle it. I do not think the Defence Ministry will have the prophetic or the astrological sense to find out as to what are the problems which will arise in the near future, and, after having found that out, to devise certain agencies for implementing them. I think that the present measure is a measure which is called for in the context of our life today and I welcome it.

Sir, this is not an instance or regimental thinking. Much has been said about cantonments and it has also been said that the cantonment administration should be integrated into the Municipal Committee administration. I would be the last person to deny civic rights being given to those persons. I want that such rights should be extended to as wide a sphere as possible. But I would like to point out the difference between the municipal areas and the cantonment areas. It is only the ordinary citizens who dwell in the municipal areas. Our people of the armed forces are residing in the cantonment area. If I may say so, the cantonment area is having some sort of a shifting population. Sometimes these men of the defence forces shift from one place to another. Therefore, to make a plea that the

[Shri D. C. Sharma]

municipal laws in toto should be made applicable to cantonment areas will not hold water. We have to take into account the difference here. There are persons residing in the cantonment areas who are liable to transfer. The population there is not always very large. I would say that to plead that all such laws should be extended to the cantonment areas is not a right kind of argument.

In my constituency also there are cantonment areas where there are Class III and Class IV employees. So far as these areas are concerned, I think, they are much better looked after here compared to other places. I don't deny that there is room for improvement. Of course, they should be looked after more properly, more adequately—I don't deny that. There is always room for improvement. But comparatively speaking, I would say that these employees get better treatment than some other persons. So, this cry about the Class III and Class IV employees by some hon. Members in season and out of season in this House has to be taken at its real worth.

I would certainly like the Class III and Class IV employees to get a better deal in India; but to say that they are at a disadvantage here is not the whole truth.

The Cantonment Boards are a model in respect of sanitation and other things and we should see that the standards of civic amenities in these areas should not suffer in any case. Before these areas are absorbed into municipal areas and before our hon. Minister brings forward a Bill in that regard, we should see that the standards of civic amenities there do not suffer.

The hon. Minister said that this is a non-controversial Bill. There is nothing which is non-controversial in this world, and, therefore, I would request the hon. Minister not to make such statements whenever he introduced any other

measure. The hon. Minister may say 'it is a non-controversial Bill: it will take only 5 minutes' etc. As I said earlier, there is nothing which is non-controversial. And, if any Bill does not provoke controversy on the floor of the House, I would say that there is something wrong with this House. Therefore, the statement which sometimes Ministers make on the floor of the House that certain measures are non-controversial should not be laid stress on. It is a controversial Bill in that it tries to give us a very dim picture of the shape of things to come. We are to have shortly the Delhi Rent Control Bill because there are some persons who are trying to profiteer so far as rents go and I think that this Measure will enable the people not to become a prey of those persons.

I do hope Sir, that the day will not be far off when the cantonments will be integrated into our municipal system. I do not know what the conditions of these areas were in the time of the British. But the condition of civic amenities as prevail today do not give one the impression that the old conditions are still prevailing. There is social life between the armed forces and the civil population, and I believe Sir that if India can show anything to outsiders it is this, namely how soon we have integrated the defence forces of India into the civil life of India and how soon we have been able to make the civil population of India look upon the defence forces of India as one of their own, not as the members of an army occupation but as the army of the people, for the people and for the country. To say that the Cantonment Boards give us the impression of being the domicile of those persons, members of an occupation army is not correct. These Cantonment Boards are undergoing change and that is fast happening. With these words I support the Bill.

श्री भक्त वरुण (गढ़वाल): उपाध्यक्ष-
महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत और

समर्पन करता हूँ। इस विधेयक के द्वारा रक्षा-मंत्रालय इस बात को चाहता है कि विभिन्न राज्यों में रेंट कंट्रोल ऐक्ट हूँ उनको छावनियों पर भी लागू किया जाये और आवश्यकतानुसार उनमें संशोधन किया जाये।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं एक निवेदन यह करना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ हमारे अधिका-रियों को इस बात की चिन्ता है कि जो किरायेदार हैं उनके अधिकारों की रक्षा की जाये, वहाँ मैं रक्षा-मंत्रालय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि मकान मालिकों के हितों का भी ध्यान रखा जाये, क्योंकि अक्सर ऐसे मामले भी देखने में आते हैं कि मकान मालिकों को किराया मिलने के कारण कठिनाई होती है। मेरा निवेदन है कि जब इस तरह का कानून लागू किया जाये और उसमें संशोधन का अधिकार केन्द्रीय सरकार को दिया जाये, तो इस बात का भी ध्यान रखा जाये कि इस तरह की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये कि मकान-मालिकों के हितों को भी व्यापार न पहुँचे। इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे यह निवेदन भी करना है कि अगर इस बात की व्यवस्था न की गयी तो छावनियों में जो नये मकान बन रहे हैं उनमें भी बाधा पड़ सकती है और मकान बनाने वाले हतोत्साहित हो सकते हैं।

दूसरा सुझाव इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह देना चाहता हूँ कि इस विधेयक द्वारा रक्षा-मंत्रालय काफी बड़ा अधिकार अपने हाथ में लेने जा रहा है। केवल राज्यों के कानून ही छावनियों पर लागू नहीं किये जायेंगे, बल्कि उनमें संशोधन भी किया जायेगा। उन संशोधनों पर इस सदन की कोई राय देने का मौका नहीं होगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसा करने में बहुत देरी लगने की सम्भावना है, क्योंकि अगर हर राज्य का कानून यहां लाया जाये और उसके संशोधनों पर यहां विचार हो तो निश्चय ही बहुत

देरी होगी। इसलिये मैं इस सुझाव का तो समर्पन नहीं कर सकता, लेकिन यह निवेदन करूँगा कि अगर किसी छावनी पर ऐसे कानून को लागू करने का विचार हो तो यह भ्रष्टा होगा कि उस छावनी बोर्ड से भी इस सम्बन्ध में परामर्श कर लिया जाये। मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसा करने में कोई कानूनी प्रश्न नहीं उपस्थित होगी। ऐसा करने से एक सहूलियत यह भी होगी कि लोगों को यह कहने का मौका नहीं मिलेगा कि यह कानून उनके ऊपर थोपा जा रहा है।

तीसरी बात इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि लोक-सभा के यह नियम है कि जो भी विधेयक यहां स्वीकार हो कर अधिनियम बनता है उसके क्लर्क (नियम) सदन की मेज पर रखे जाते हैं। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो कानून इन छावनियों पर लागू किये जायें और उनमें जो भी संशोधन किये जायें उनकी प्रतियां इस सदन की मेज पर रखी जायें, ताकि यदि कोई सदस्य चाहे तो उस पर बाद-विवाद प्रारम्भ कर सके।

मेरे आदरणीय मित्र श्री मेनन साहब, जो विरोध पक्ष से बोले, उन्होंने अपने भाषण में इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इन छावनियों को समाप्त कर दिया जाये। मैं उन सदस्यों में से हूँ जो कि इस बात का हमेशा प्रयत्न करते रहे हैं कि इन छावनियों की जनता को पूरे अधिकार मिलने चाहिये और जो अधिकार उनके पड़ोस की नगरपालिकाओं या डिस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्डों की जनता को प्राप्त हैं, उनसे इन लोगों के अधिकार कम नहीं होने चाहिये। लेकिन मेरा विश्वास है कि अगर छावनियों की जनता की इस बारे में राय ली जाये तो वे निश्चय ही केन्द्रीय सरकार के अन्तर्गत रहना चाहेंगे न कि राज्य सरकारों के। जैसा कि अभी मेरे मित्र शर्मा जी ने बतलाया छावनियों में सफाई आदि का स्तर बहुत ऊँचा है। छावनी

[श्री मन्त दर्शन]

बोर्डों में सफाई आदि की जो व्यवस्था है उससे उनके निकटवर्ती म्युनिसिपल बोर्डों को और दूसरी स्थानीय संस्थाओं को इस बारे में सबक लेना चाहिये। अतः मैं इस बात का कमी समर्थन नहीं कर सकता कि इन छावनियों को ही समाप्त कर दिया जाये। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा यह निवेदन है कि कुछ वर्ष पहले मंत्री महोदय ने इस सदन को यह आश्वासन दिया था कि हम शीघ्र ही एक बड़ा विधेयक लायेंगे। जिससे वहाँ की जनता को अधिक अधिकार मिलेंगे लेकिन अभी तक वह कानून नहीं लाया गया है। पिछले बजट के समय भी कुछ मित्रों ने इस सवाल को उठाया था और मैंने भी जोर दिया था तो रक्षा-मंत्री मेनन साहब ने यह कहा था कि यह जो छावनियाँ हैं ये कोई इम्पीरियलिज्म के गढ़ नहीं हैं। उन्होंने ये शब्द कहे थे और इस सदन में इस बात की घोषणा की थी कि छावनी बोर्डों में सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी मेम्बरों की संख्या बराबर कर दी जायेगी। अभी ऐसा है कि कहीं चार और पाँच का अनुपात है, कहीं दो और तीन का। उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया था कि इन बोर्डों में सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी सदस्यों की संख्या बराबर कर दी जायेगी। लेकिन अभी उस कानून को नहीं लाया गया है। जैसी आवश्यकता होती है उसके अनुसार छोटे छोटे कानून लाये जाते हैं। इनको लाना भी उचित ही है, लेकिन जिस गति से यह काम हो रहा है वह बहुत धीमी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर एक बड़ा विधेयक लाया जाये तो उस पर हम लोग विस्तार से अपने विचार प्रकट कर सकते हैं। एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी ने भी इस विषय पर विस्तार के साथ अपने विचार प्रकट किये हैं और कुछ सिफारिशें भी की हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि उन सिफारिशों में से अधिकांश ऐसी नहीं हैं जो कि इम्पेक्टिव हों। मैं मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को उन सिफारिशों को मंजूर कर लेना चाहिये। उन

सिफारिशों पर शीघ्रता से विचार होना चाहिये और मुझे आशा है कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय उस विधेयक को शीघ्र ही लायेंगे और उन पर हमको विस्तार के साथ विचार करने का मौका मिलेगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a Private Member's Bill came up before the House and I think it will be coming within the course of the week. It is to amend the Cantonments Act in a manner so that it may come on the lines of municipal boards. I do not know exactly what the position of the hon. Minister is with regard to that Bill. But, whatever it may be I think it is time that the Cantonment Board should also be made responsible for what they do.

I am conscious of the fact that there is a large body of army men who have to be dealt with in a different manner. In the present Cantonment Act also there is a provision that when a Cantonment Board passes a resolution which is detrimental to the interests of the Army, the Officer Commanding can probably veto it or write to the higher authorities. Be that as it may, it does seem to be necessary that there should be something like transferred subjects and reserved subjects in the Cantonment also just as we had when the first constitutional reforms were made so that matters affecting the Army could be specially reserved to the Officer Commanding of that station and with respect to other matters, relating to sanitation, cleanliness etc. the Board can have the power. Anyhow that is a matter which can be taken into consideration.

As my friend said, the old Cantonments Act was passed in 1924 and it should be so amended as to bring it in line with the present conditions prevailing in the country.

With regard to this particular Bill my submission is that it should wait till the other Bill is considered by the House so that the new Boards that may come into existence as a result of that measure may have some voice in the matter of the fixation of control etc.

With these words I support the Bill.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this measure. What my hon. friends, Shri Sharma and Shri Bhakt Darshan have said is probably true of the Cantonment Boards which are very small in area. I have been living in a cantonment for several years, that is, the Secunderabad Cantonment, which is considered to be by far the biggest cantonment among the cantonments in India.

Here there are two sides. Some areas are very well kept; the sanitation is good; the roads are good and street-lighting is also there. But in the major portion of the areas there are no street lights nor is there water-supply.

Sir, even though this cantonment population—the military personnel—in Secunderabad is far far less than the civilian population yet the whole area comes under the Cantonment Board. They cannot manage such a huge area properly nor they are willing to give it away to the Municipal Corporation, Secunderabad. Sir, on the one hand they cannot manage these areas properly or develop these areas properly or look after the vacant lands but whenever even the State Government wants a piece of land for putting up a small workshop they are not given. I remember, Sir, when the Hyderabad Road Transport Department wanted to have a small shed for keeping the Hyderabad Road Transport buses during the night they could not give a piece of land for the State Government. The same is true even for the Central Government. Sir, some years ago the Posts & Telegraphs Department wanted a piece of land for building quarters for the

staff of the Posts & Telegraphs even that was not given. These are some of the few difficulties which are faced by the Secunderabad Cantonment Board.

There is no use now asking the Minister to put an end to all these cantonments or bring them on a par with Secunderabad Municipal Corporation. I remember much was said when some two years ago when there was an amending bill. Even Mr. Gadgil from the Congress benches called these cantonments as vestiges of British rule and added that they should be put an end to. There is no use. I cannot persuade the Minister to do away with it. What I urge is measures that will do good to the people, because especially in Secunderabad Cantonment you will find the civilian population far more than the military personnel. Therefore, there is every necessity to give benefit of the laws prevailing in those states.

Not only that, I would say that Secunderabad Cantonment should be reduced in area because the Secunderabad Cantonment cannot manage with the income that it has got or the amount that is given to the Cantonment Board from the Central Government. Therefore, I would urge strongly: keep the area such as you want to the Cantonment Board and surrender the rest of it to the Secunderabad Municipal Corporation because of a lot of development work—house construction etc.—the whole Secunderabad Municipal Corporation area is very congested due to Hyderabad city being made the capital of such a big State like Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, Sir, while welcoming this Bill I would request the hon. Minister to look into the special conditions prevailing in the Secunderabad Cantonment and to have a portion of that acceded to the Secunderabad Municipal Corporation.

Sardar Majithia: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I should first of all thank the Members for their wholehearted support for this particular small piece of legislation which I have

[Sardar Majithia]

brought forward. Although my word "non-controversial" annoyed my friend over there, to some extent the very fact that all sections of the House support this goes to show that it is non-controversial.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Sharma meant that though it may be non-controversial it should not be said so.

Sardar Majithia: If it is what Mr. Sharma says I may not refer that it is non-controversial but the facts prove it.

I should like to deal with the first two suggestions made by my hon. friend, Shri Bhakt Darshan. The first was that the Cantonment Board should be consulted before applying this legislation to that particular cantonment. I have no hesitation in accepting that suggestion of his.

The second suggestion that he made was about the recommendations of Estimates Committee. I should like to tell this House through you, Sir, that the recommendations which are far-reaching are under the active consideration of the Ministry, and I am quite sure something will come out of it from there soon.

As regards my friend in the opposition, Shri Menon, he started off with a lot of thunder which was expected.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): I hope you are not referring to Krishna Menon.

Sardar Majithia: I was speaking of my friend opposite. My Minister happens to be on this side of the House. He started off with a lot of thunder but he gave his whole-hearted support to the Bill because it naturally safeguards the rights of the poor tenants who inhabit most of these places.

Reference was made about the assurance that I gave some four years back. I should like to point out that I stand by that assurance still. What I mentioned in that assurance was that I should like to have some

experience after giving certain reforms to the cantonments, and then in the light of the experience gained I shall bring forward a comprehensive Bill. He himself said that ten years in the life of a nation is a very long time. I do not know whether that holds good. I thought ten years was a very short one but the very fact that this piece of legislation has been doing good work and quite a few friends who have lived in the cantonments have vouchsafed the better amenities in the cantonment—it is true that they must have had quite a lot of benefits because, I remember, when the question of accession came up there was a lot of trouble from the people saying that they do not want to get out of the cantonment—that very fact went to show that the people living there were quite happy. A point was made that the cantonments are vestiges of the old occupation army. Well, Sir, if people choose to live in the pre-47 days I cannot help it. They seem to be still labouring under the old ideas. It only goes to show that their minds have not changed although we have accepted the Constitution—we are independent and we are working for the further development of the country as a whole. But their minds still continue in the same old groove for the simple reason that they have not been able to foment any trouble in these cantonment areas. They try to make a lot of democracy. I do not know how much they believe in it. But I would like to bring it out that the cantonments started off because the army went there. All the other civilian population came into that area as a subsidiary to the population of the army for developing their business and industry. It was the main cause, as I said, for the Army being there. Now, they want that the Army should have absolutely no control over that, although they may continue to live there. Well, that is a strange sort of democracy to me,—that the very person who is vitally affected by the particular legislation should not be

consulted at all, and they cannot be consulted for the simple reason that they keep on moving from one cantonment to another. You have to give them certain safeguards, and therefore we have got the system of nominating the officers who represent them.

I should like to mention here one thing. Mention was made about the assurance given by my Minister about introducing parity in the cantonments. I should like to say that it would be soon implemented. Instructions have been issued and that parity has been made. Now, there is equal representation between the civilians and the military personnel there.

Thus, as I said, although the primary interest was of the military, we have given them equal representation. But I do not stop at that. All these cantonment areas are subject to the control of this House and no one will controvert this point, not even Shri D. C. Sharma, that this is a fully representative House of the people of India. If the people of India look after these cantonments, I think they enjoy the maximum amount of democracy that you can possibly cope with.

I should, in the end, once again like to thank all the Members of the House for their very kindly giving their wholehearted support for this piece of legislation. I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put the question to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension to cantonments of laws relating to the control of rent and regulation of house accommodation, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2—4

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to any of the clauses

The question is:

"That clauses 2, 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Sardar Majithia: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to move:

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration".

Sir, I want to avail myself of this opportunity of offering thanks to Shri Asoka Mehta and his colleagues on the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee for the splendid job that they have done. An hon. Member of the Committee, Shri Tyabji, is no more with us, and I believe I am expressing the feelings of the House in offering sympathy to his survivors. This Committee has submitted its report in a record time. It has gone all over the country, collected evidence from all the various interests concerned and I must say that it has made a very comprehensive survey.

No discussion of the food situation in the country today can be considered to be realistic without a reference to the various recommendations made by the Asoka Mehta Committee. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we are carefully examining the recommendations made in that report with the consideration that it deserves. We have not come to any final conclusion.